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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/863,071 | 05/22/2001 | Kazuaki Sugai | CANO:027 | 7600 |

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| EXAMINER |
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NARAYANASWAMY, SINDYA

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2174

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,071

Applicant(s)

SUGAI, KAZUAKI

Examiner

Sindya Narayanaswamy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-34 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks, US-6,008,809.

4. As per claim 1, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system comprising: a plurality of window display sections that each display data; operation panel window display sections displaying operation panel windows that operate the window display sections; a selecting section that selects one of the window display sections; and a control section that is responsive to selection of one of the window display sections by the selecting section, changes sizes of the window display sections based on an order of selection by the selecting section (*window is selected and dragged into dynamic window, window is dynamically sized, window can be altered in horizontal and vertical boundary*) (col. 2, lines 11-51).

5. As per claim 2, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system wherein the control section determines display positions and sizes of the wide window display sections and the operation panel display sections such that the selected one of the window display sections does not overlap with any of the window display sections other than the selected one of the window display sections or any of the operation panel window display sections (*no overlapping, horizontal and vertical adjustments*) (Abstract, lines 17-27, col. 2, lines 36-47).

6. As per claim 3, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system wherein the control section determines a display position and size of the window sections other than the selected one of the window display sections based on a display position and size of the selected one of the window display sections (*selecting process relates windows*) (col. 2, lines 34-47).

7. As per claim 4, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system further comprising a storage device that stores an order of display precedence for and a history of selection of the window display sections (*mass storage interface*) (col. 3, lines 51-54).

8. As per claim 5, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system comprising: a plurality of window display sections that each display data; a plurality of operation panel window display sections that display a plurality of operation panel windows having operating buttons for operating the window display sections; a selecting section that selects one of the window display sections; and a control section that changes a size of one of the operation panel window display

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sections corresponding to the selected one of the window display sections in accordance with a changing of a size of the selected one of the window display sections (*method for viewing multiple windows, dynamic window acts as tool for user to display multiple windows, selection process allows user to relate windows, control section (allows alteration/manipulation of windows)*) (col. 2, lines 11-52).

9. As per claim 6, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system wherein the control section changes sizes of the operating buttons of the operation panel window display sections in accordance with the changing of the size of the selected one the window display sections (*buttons created as necessary, based on sizes of windows and space availability*) (col. 11, lines 36-49).

10. As per claim 7, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system wherein the control section changes number of the operating buttons of the operation panel window display section in accordance with the changing of the size of the selected on of the window display sections ().

11. As per claims 9-12, they are similar in scope to claims 1-4 and are rejected on the same basis.

12. As per claims 13-15, they are similar in scope to claims 5-7 and are rejected on the same basis.

13. As per claim 17, it is similar in scope to claim 1 and is rejected on the same basis.

14. As per claim 18, it is similar in scope to claim 18 and is rejected on the same basis.

15. As per claim 19, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system comprising: a plurality of window display sections that each display data; operation panel window display sections that display operation panel windows for operating the window display sections; a selecting section that selects one of the window display sections; a movement direction indicating section that indicates a direction of movement of the one of the window display sections selected by the selecting section; and a control section that is responsive to indication of the direction of movement of the selected one of the window display sections by the movement direction indicating section, for moving the selected one of the window display sections in the indicated direction of movement and displaying the selected one of the window display sections at the enlarged size (*dragged in a path...as a leftward horizontal path*) (col. 2, lines 34-57, col. 10, lines 42-48).

16. As per claim 20, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system wherein when one of the window display sections has been selected by the selecting section, the control section carries out control such that at least one of the window display sections other than one of the window display sections selected by the selecting section are displayed so as not to overlap with the window display section selected by the selecting section (col. 5, lines 42-46).

17. As per claim 21, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system wherein when one of the window display sections has been selected by the selecting section that the control section

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displays one of the window display sections selected by the selecting section at an enlarged size (*user can selectively adjust/enlarge sizes*) (col. 5, lines 55-67).

18. As per claim 22, Brooks teaches the multi-window display system wherein when one of the window display sections displayed at the enlarged size is moved in the indicated direction of movement, the control section displays one of the window display sections displayed at the enlarged size at maximum size (*reduced to button size or enlarged to maximum size*) (col. 12, lines 22-39).

19. As per claim 23, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system as claimed wherein when one of the window display sections displayed at the enlarged size is moved in the indicated direction of movement, the control section displays the operation panel window display sections in a region not occupied by the window display sections (col. 14, lines 27-42).

20. As per claims 27-31, they are similar in scope to claims 19-23 and are therefore rejected on the same basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made

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to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 8, 16, 23-27 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks, US-6,008,809.

23. As per claims 8 and 16, Brooks does not teach the method, as in claim 5, of the multi-window display system wherein the control section changes display positions and sizes of all of the window display sections and the operation panel window display sections that are being displayed, in accordance with the changing of the size of the selected one of the window display sections. However Official Notice is taken that the manipulation of control and operation panel windows/buttons are well known in the art therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a method by which the control section and operation panel windows could be changed in order to allow the user greater flexibility in selected a desired display.

24. As per claim 24, Brooks teaches a multi-window display system comprising a plurality of window display sections that each display data; operation panel window display sections that display a plurality of operation panels each corresponding to one of the window display sections; a selecting section that selects one of the window display sections or one of the operation panel window display sections; and a control section that is responsive to selection of one of a window display sections by the selecting section ((col. 2, lines 34-57).

Brooks does not teach the system for semi-transparently displaying at least one of the operation panel window display sections corresponding to at least one of the window display sections other than one of the window display sections selected by the selected section. However, Official Notice is taken that semi-transparent display is well known in the art, therefore it would have been obvious to of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a display with semi-transparency in order to show a full display of panels without hindering the user's view.

25. As per claims 25 and 26, Brooks does not specifically teach a multi-window display system wherein when another one of the operation panel window display sections has been selected by the selecting section following selection of one of the operation panel window display sections the control sections changes the display of one of the operation panel window display sections corresponding to another one of the window display sections from semi-transparent display to non-transparent display or displays the selected one of the operation panel window display sections non-transparently. However, Official Notice is taken that a non-transparent display is well known in the art, therefore it would have been obvious to of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to switch a semi-transparent display to a non-transparent one when it is not necessary for the user (i.e. no overlap exists).

26. As per claims 32-34, they are the similar in scope to claims 24-26 and are rejected on the same basis.

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Conclusion

27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. "Method and System For Stacking Toolbars in a Computer Display," US-5,644,737.

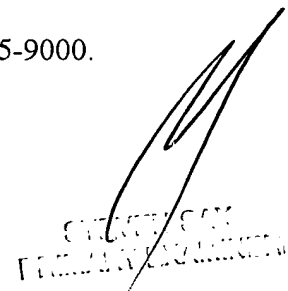
b. "User Interface Control for Creating Split Panes in a Single Window," US-6,310,631.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sindya Narayanaswamy whose telephone number is (703) 305-8473. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5 pm, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-5404.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9000.

Sindya Narayanaswamy
December 23, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "RECEIVED" at the top and "FEBRUARY 2004" at the bottom, with a diagonal line crossing through the center.